



Requirements for the Standard Professional Moderate/Severe Disabilities Certificate – Grades K-12

Arizona Department of Education – Certification Unit

Standard Professional Moderate/Severe Disabilities, K-12

The Standard certificate is valid for 12 years and may be renewed.

Requirements for the Standard Professional Moderate/Severe Disabilities are:

1. **Application:** Submission of a completed [Application for Certification](#) and the appropriate fee (see Application for Certification).
2. **AZDPS IVP fingerprint clearance card:** A photocopy of your valid [Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints \(IVP\)](#) fingerprint clearance card.
3. **Bachelor's degree:** A Bachelor's or more advanced degree from an accredited college or university.
 - Required Documentation:* Official transcript(s) posting the degree and date awarded.
4. **One of the following (Option A, B, or C):**

Option A. Teacher Preparation Program: Completion of a teacher preparation program in Moderate/Severe Disabilities Special Education from a Board-approved educator preparation program or from an accredited institution offering substantially similar training, addressing the topics listed below and any others as required by law: Research-based systematic phonics; Research-based instructional strategies for delivering differentiated reading instruction, assessment, intervention and remediation to support readers of varying ages and ability levels, including students with dyslexia; Instructional design and lesson planning, including specially designed instruction; The learning environment, including classroom and individual behavioral management; Instructional delivery, facilitation and methodologies for teaching research-based instruction in math and English language arts; Legal aspects of special education, including individualized education programs and transition planning; Effective collaboration and communication practices, including modifications and accommodations; Adaptive communication, including language development and disorders; Assessment and eligibility, including monitoring and reporting requirements; Professional responsibility and ethical conduct; Twelve weeks of capstone experience as described in R7-2-604 in special education in moderate to severe moderate/severe disabilities grades K through 12, which may be completed during the valid period of a teaching intern certificate.

- Required Documentation:* Official transcripts or an Arizona Institutional Recommendation (IR) documenting completion of the teacher preparation program.

Option B. Teaching Experience and Coursework/Training. Both of the following (B-1 **and** B-2):

B-1. Two (2) years of full-time teaching experience in Moderate/Severe Special Education.

- Required Documentation to meet B-1:* A [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form, completed and signed by the school Superintendent or Personnel/HR director, verifying completion of the required teaching experience. **-AND-**

B-2. Completion of Board approved or accredited coursework or trainings which teach the knowledge and skills described in Arizona Administrative Code R7-2-602 and address the following topics:

- a. Research-based systematic phonics;
- b. Research-based instructional strategies for delivering differentiated reading instruction, assessment, intervention and remediation to support readers of varying ages and ability levels, including students with dyslexia;
- c. Instructional design and lesson planning, including specially designed instruction;
- d. The learning environment, including classroom and individual behavioral management;
- e. Instructional delivery, facilitation and methodologies for teaching research-based instruction in math and English language arts;



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- f. Legal aspects of special education, including individualized education programs and transition planning;
 - g. Effective collaboration and communication practices, including modifications and accommodations;
 - h. Adaptive communication, including language development and disorders;
 - i. Assessment and eligibility, including monitoring and reporting requirements;
 - j. Professional responsibility and ethical conduct;
- Required Documentation to meet B-2:* Official transcript(s) documenting completion of the coursework or trainings.

Option C. Out-of-State Certification. The applicant holds a valid, comparable Moderate/Severe Disabilities Special Education certificate from another state and is in good standing with that other state. Applicants who qualify under this option are **not** required to meet the exam requirements listed under #5 and #6.

- Required Documentation:* A photocopy of the valid, comparable teaching certificate from another state.

5. Professional Knowledge Special Education Exam Requirement

Submit proof of **ONE** of the following (Option A, B, C, or D):

Option A. Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment: A passing score on the AEPA Special Education: Severely and Profoundly Disabled (AZ 030) exam.

- Required Documentation:* A photocopy of the passing score report.

Option B. Out-of-State Exam: A passing score on a substantially similar Special Education: Severely and Profoundly Disabled exam from another state or agency.

- Required Documentation:* An original, official score report, or a verification letter from the state agency that accepted the exam, documenting that you passed the exam.

Option C. NBPTS Certificate: A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).

- Required Documentation:* A photocopy of the NBPTS certificate.

Option D. Teaching Experience: Three years of full-time contracted teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, in Moderate/Severe Disabilities Special Education K-12. *Note:* Experience teaching in a foreign school does **not** meet this requirement.

- Required Documentation:* A [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form, completed and signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director, verifying the required full-time teaching experience in a school within the United States.

6. Subject Knowledge Exam Requirement

Submit proof of **ONE** of the following (Option A, B, C, D, E, F, or G):

Option A. Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment: A passing score on the NES Subject Knowledge Elementary Education Subtests I and II (NT 102 and NT 103) exam.

- Required Documentation:* A photocopy of the passing score report.

Option B. Out-of-State Exam: A passing score on a substantially similar Subject Knowledge: Elementary Education examination from another state or agency.

- Required Documentation:* An original, official score report, or verification letter from the agency that accepted the exam, documenting that you passed the substantially similar exam.



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Option C. NBPTS: A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

- Required Documentation:* A photocopy of the NBPTS certificate.

Option D. Degree in the Subject: A Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctorate degree from an accredited institution in Moderate/Severe Disabilities Special Education or Elementary Education.

- Required Documentation:* Official transcripts documenting the degree.

Option E. Teaching Experience: Verification of three years of full-time teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, in Moderate/Severe Disabilities Special Education or in a self-contained, K-8 classroom.

Note: Experience teaching in a foreign school does not meet this requirement.

- Required Documentation:* A [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form, completed and signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director verifying full-time contracted teaching experience.

Option F. Post-Secondary Teaching: Experience teaching courses relevant to Moderate/Severe Disabilities Special Education or Elementary Education for the last two consecutive years and for a total of at least three years, at one or more regionally or nationally accredited postsecondary institutions.

- Required Documentation:* A letter(s) from the college or university Department Chair, Dean, or Personnel Director, verifying postsecondary teaching experience for the specific durations.

Option G. Work Experience: Demonstration of expertise in Moderate/Severe Disabilities Special Education or Elementary Education through five years of relevant work experience.

- Required Documentation.* One of the following:
 - A letter from an Arizona public-school Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director verifying that they have five years of work experience which demonstrates expertise in the subject area; **-OR-**
 - A resume which details work experience of at least five years which demonstrates expertise in the subject area. Note: The Department will review your resume to determine if you have demonstrated expertise through five years of relevant work experience.

Requirements #7, #8, #9, #10, and #11 are allowable deficiencies which must be completed in the specified timeframe.

The following requirements must be completed within **one year** or **three years** to maintain the validity of the certificate:

- 7. Arizona Constitution:** A college course or the appropriate examination covering the provisions and principles of the Arizona Constitution.
- 8. U.S. Constitution:** A college course or the appropriate examination covering the provisions and principles of the United States Constitution.
- 9. Phonics:** A college course or Board approved or accredited training in research-based systematic phonics.
- 10. Dyslexia:** A college course or Board approved or accredited training in research-based instructional strategies for delivering differentiated reading instruction, assessment, intervention and remediation to support readers of varying ages and ability levels, including students with dyslexia.
- 11. Ethics:** A college course or Board approved or accredited training in professional responsibility and ethical conduct.



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Arizona and U.S. Constitution Requirements: If you otherwise qualify but are deficient in the Arizona Constitution and/or U.S. Constitution, you have **three years** under a valid teaching certificate to fulfill these requirements, except that if you are certified to teach an academic course on history, government, social studies, citizenship, law, or civics, you have **one year** to fulfill the Arizona and U.S. Constitution requirements. **

Phonics, Dyslexia, and Ethics Requirements: If you otherwise qualify but are deficient in the Phonics, Dyslexia, and/or Ethics requirements, you have **three years** under a valid teaching certificate to fulfill these requirements. **

****NOTE:** If you do not complete the allowable deficiency requirements within the allowable time frame, your Standard teaching certificate will be **temporarily suspended** and will not be valid for employment until the deficiency is corrected. A temporary suspension for failure to meet these requirements is not considered a disciplinary action and a person shall be allowed to correct the deficiency within the remaining timeframe of the certificate. **